

IN THE CLAIMS

1-6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A method for producing lignocellulosic boards from a mat of lignocellulosic material comprising compressing said mat in a steam injection press to inject steam into said lignocellulosic boards and generate steam and gaseous emissions therein, capturing said steam and gaseous emissions, and supplying hot air independent of said steam to said steam injection press and to said mat, thereby preventing condensation of said steam, said gaseous emissions, and any leakage of air from the surroundings.

8. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 including transporting said steam and gaseous emissions to a combustion plant.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 8 wherein said combustion plant has a predetermined required amount of combustion air, and including supplying said hot air and any of said leakage air to said steam injection press in an amount which is not greater than said predetermined required amount.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein said supplying of said hot air to said steam injection press includes supplying said hot air to a curing zone in said steam injection press at a temperature of greater than 100°C.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 8 including passing said lignocellulosic boards to an after-conditioning unit which generates a stream of suction air, heating said stream of suction air to a temperature greater than 100°C, and using said stream of heated suction air for said supplying of said hot air to said steam injection press.

12. (previously presented) Apparatus for producing lignocellulosic boards from a mat of lignocellulosic material comprising a steam injection press for injecting steam into said mat and compressing said mat to form said lignocellulosic boards and generating steam and gaseous emissions therefrom, a suction member for capturing said steam and gaseous emissions, and a hot air unit for supplying hot air to said steam injection press and to said mat, thereby preventing condensation of said steam, said gaseous emissions, and any leakage air from the surroundings.

13. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12 including an after-conditioning unit for subsequently conditioning said lignocellulosic boards and generating a stream of suction air, a heater for heating said stream of suction air, and supply means for supplying said heated stream of suction air to said hot air unit.

14. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12 including transport means for transporting said steam and gaseous emissions to a combustion plant.